

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 512, which would create a 23 member commission responsible for developing a plan of action for the establishment and maintenance of a National Museum of the American Latino in Washington, DC. Specifically, this commission would be tasked with bringing experts, policymakers, and other interested parties together to discuss a viable blueprint for the museum. The commission would also design a public-private partnership to fund the museum. These recommendations would be reported to Congress within 24 months of the bill being signed into law.

During my tenure as Ranking Member of the House Administration Committee in the 108th Congress, the committee held a long overdue hearing on this legislation. In the 109th Congress, I was a cosponsor of this legislation and it passed in the House by a voice vote on September 27, 2006. Unfortunately, the Senate was unable to pass this bill before the adjournment of the 109th Congress.

The Latino population in the United States is estimated at 42.7 million, making the community the fastest growing group in the country. They also have a rich heritage in this country that is worth celebrating. I am hopeful that we can finally get this bill to the President's desk for signature and get the process underway for establishing this important museum. As a former high school history teacher, I believe that passage of this legislation is crucial in educating all Americans of our nation's cultural diversity.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 512, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ALLOWING FOR RENEGOTIATION OF PAYMENT SCHEDULE OF CONTRACTS BETWEEN SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 235) to allow for the renegotiation of the payment schedule of contracts between the Secretary of the Interior and the Redwood Valley County Water District, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 235

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. RENEGOTIATION OF PAYMENT SCHEDULE.

Section 15 of Public Law 100-516 (102 Stat. 2573) is amended as follows:

(1) By amending paragraph (2) of subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(2) If, as of January 1, 2006, the Secretary of the Interior and the Redwood Valley County Water District have not renegotiated the schedule of payment, the District may enter into such additional non-Federal obligations as are necessary to finance procurement of dedicated water rights and improvements necessary to store and convey those rights to provide for the District's water needs. The Secretary shall reschedule the payments due under loans numbered 14-06-200-8423A and 14-06-200-8423A Amendatory and said payments shall commence when such additional obligations have been financially satisfied by the District. The date of the initial payment owed by the District to the United States shall be regarded as the start of the District's repayment period and the time upon which any interest shall first be computed and assessed under section 5 of the Small Reclamation Projects Act of 1956 (43 U.S.C. 422a et seq.).”

(2) By striking subsection (c).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in very strong support of H.R. 235, as amended. This legislation will allow the Redwood Valley County Water District in Northern California to renegotiate loans it received from the Federal Government for an unsuccessful water project. This action will clear the way for the Water District to initiate a new project that will develop a reliable supply of drinking water for that area. The District will rely only on private financing for the new project. No Federal money will be spent on this new project.

However, before the District can secure private financing for any project, it must renegotiate the existing loans to provide for their repayment subsequent to repayment of the new loan. Once the new project is built and delivering water, it will provide enough revenue to allow the District to repay both its private loan and the United States Government.

Specifically, this legislation allows the Redwood Valley County Water District to secure a private loan for a project to provide the region with a reliable water supply. It also requires the Water District to repay its current suspended loan to the Federal Government once the renewed water project is paid for.

In consultation with the minority, the legislation includes a minor

amendment to clarify the requirement that the Secretary of the Interior must reschedule loan payments and that the payments must begin immediately upon satisfaction of the Water District's newer financial obligation.

Similar legislation was passed by this House in the 109th Congress; and I congratulate my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, for all of his hard work on behalf of the Redwood Valley County Water District.

I do urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 235, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant support of H.R. 235.

There were many last-minute questions about this bill mainly because a hearing wasn't held on it. I hope this will not be the standard procedure for how the majority party brings legislation to the House floor. That is why I am pleased that the majority has made additional inquiries regarding this bill and has decided to offer an amendment to address some concerns. With this amendment, I will not oppose the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 235, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVING CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON MAMMOTH COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT'S ABILITY TO USE CERTAIN PROPERTY ACQUIRED FROM THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 356) to remove certain restrictions on the Mammoth Community Water District's ability to use certain property acquired by that District from the United States.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 356

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REMOVAL OF CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON PROPERTY.

Notwithstanding Public Law 90-171 (16 U.S.C. 484a; 81 Stat. 531), the approximately 25 acres patented to the Mammoth Community Water District (now known as the “Mammoth Community Water District”) by Patent No. 04-87-0038, on June 26, 1987, and recorded in Volume 482, at page 517, of the official records of the Recorder's Office, Mono